GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:790
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
DISTRESS SALE BY FARMERS
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of procurement of paddy and rice State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received complaints of suicides and distress sale of these commodities by farmers due to the failure of Government agencies to procure the entire crops in various States particularly Punjab;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to procure the entire stocks of these commodities and prevent distress sale in order to mitigate the hardships of the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): Statewise Procurement of paddy and rice in Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06 (as on 23.11.2005) is enclosed.

(b): No such complaints on distress sale has been received from various States including Punjab by this Department during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): FCI alongwith the State Government and their agencies, undertake procurement of foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) Specifications at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) at a large number of Centres for the Central Pool.

In order to ensure, inter alia, that the benefit of MSP scheme reaches the farmers, the Government has, in 1997-98, introduced the scheme of Decentralised Procurement. This scheme is now in operation in various States.